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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Fifty-first session

# DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE


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**A (51) THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decisions A (50) and 1 (1995-S),

Stressing the resolution 50/11 on multilingualism adopted by the General Assembly on 25 November 1995,

Conscious of the important role of the ECE as an instrument for the implementation of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter at the regional level,

Taking note of the Executive Secretary's Note on the programme of work for 1996-2000 (E/ECE/1341) and taking into account the summaries of the Ad hoc Informal Meetings convened since the fiftieth session by the Chairperson in accordance with decision P (45),

Taking also into account the present situation of the ECE budget for the 1996-1997 biennium in the context of the United Nations financial difficulties and the ongoing discussions on the reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

Recalling its previous decisions inviting the Executive Secretary to initiate preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Economic Commission for Europe to be commemorated in 1997,

Stressing the importance of adapting ECE activities to new realities in the ECE region taking into account the needs and priorities of all countries in the region, including the countries in transition, and the increasing role of the private sector as well as the budget capacity and the need for savings,

Recalling the contribution of the ECE in preparing global conferences and their programmes of action,

Mindful of the request of the Committee on Agriculture at its forty-sixth session that the Commission take a final decision on its future work in the field of agriculture and the lack of available resources;

1. Reaffirms its determination, pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency, to continue to implement decisions O (45) and P (45), requests its subsidiary bodies to continue to carry out the provisions of decision O (45) when reviewing and carrying out their programmes of work and further requests the Executive Secretary to continue to implement the provisions and recommendations contained in decisions O (45) and P (45) where the work of the secretariat is concerned;

2. Approves its programme of work for 1996-1997 and endorses, in principle, subject to review at its fifty-second session, its programme of work for 1996-2000;

3. Notes the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1342) on the implications of Resolutions of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC for the work of the ECE and his note on ECE's contribution and follow up to UN global programmes and conferences (E/ECE/1343) and requests the Executive Secretary to continue the ongoing work in these fields and to consult member States before taking any new initiatives on the Commission's contribution to forthcoming or recent global conferences or international years pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency;

4. Calls on the Principal Subsidiary Bodies to take into account the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, where appropriate, while defining and implementing their work programmes;

5. Welcomes the Executive Secretary's Note (E/ECE/1334) on cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and sub-regional groupings active in the region and their participation in relevant ECE meetings;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the Summary Document prepared by the secretariat (E/ECE/1336) and the report of the Chairman of the Commission on his consultations with the bureau of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies (E/ECE/1335);

7. Stresses the importance of continuing policies aimed at further liberalization and expansion of trade including market access and market competitiveness among the countries of the ECE region and in particular among western countries and countries in transition and invites the Committee on the Development of Trade to continue its work in this domain;

8. Takes note of the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1330) and the suggestions contained therein on the commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Economic Commission for Europe and invites the Executive Secretary to finalize in close cooperation with the Bureau of the Commission and the member States the preparations for the Session and to report to an Ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission;

9. Takes also note of the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1340) on cooperation in the field of human settlements;

10. Notes the interim report of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency set up by decision 1 (1995-S) adopted by its Special Session of 20 September 1995, urges a prompt response to the questionnaire prepared by the Ad hoc Working Group and addressed to ECE Governments to seek their views on the review process and requests the Ad hoc Working Group to finalize its deliberations as soon as possible in order to prepare a Declaration on Strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe to be adopted by its fifty-second Jubilee session in 1997;

11. Takes note of the ECE regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as approved by the General Assembly and of the financial crisis of the United Nations and invites the Executive Secretary to examine carefully its

implications on both professional and general service posts and to take action to fill the vacancies taking due account of established priorities in ECE and requests him to provide regular information on the deployment of resources both under the regular budget and from extra-budgetary contributions to Permanent Missions in Geneva and to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and further invites the Executive Secretary to consult member States on any changes in its programme activities for the biennium 1996-1997 in the light of the proposals of the Secretary-General (document A/C.5/50/57) subject to their approval by the General Assembly;

12. Requests its Principal Subsidiary Bodies to consider further measures aimed at rationalization of their proceedings, with the view to making optimal use of available resources;

13. Decides to suspend the activities of the Committee on Agriculture and to retain only ECE work on Standardization of perishable produce, to be transferred for the time being to the Committee on the Development of Trade, and on Agricultural Statistics, to be transferred for the time being to the Conference of European Statisticians pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the future of the Committee on Agriculture;

14. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit this decision as well as other decisions of this session, together with the views expressed or agreed in relation thereto by member Governments, to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies concerned and requests them to take these into account in their work and when reviewing their respective programmes.

**B (51) PARTICIPATION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/106, dated 20 December 1995 on business and development,

Noting with satisfaction the interest and participation of the business community, national and regional industrial associations in sectoral programmes of the ECE such as industry and technology, transport, trade facilitation, energy and, in particular, construction of vehicles, EDIFACT and the activities of the Gas Centre and the Energy Efficiency 2000 project as well as their direct financial support for the implementation of relevant ECE programmes through contributions to respective trust funds,

Welcoming the convening of the Round Table Conference on cooperation and sustainable industrial development held at the present session of the ECE with active participation of the private sector and taking note of other experience accumulated by the Commission in cooperating with the business community,

Aware of the need for increased private sector involvement in the activities of the ECE, inter alia in assisting the transition process in interested member States,

1. Invites member States and requests the Executive Secretary to encourage, to the greatest extent practicable, business community participation in execution of the ECE mandate through developing its closer cooperation with relevant PSBs and trust funds,

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to improve the management of extra-budgetary funds contributed by the business community through the preparation of relevant administrative guidelines and appropriate selection of projects to be financed from these funds, in a manner which will encourage further business community involvement and cooperation,

3. Also requests the Executive Secretary to explore, in consultations with the governments of the member States and representatives of the business community, the feasibility of a more consistent framework of cooperation with the business community with particular attention to the interests of emerging private sector in the countries in transition,

4. Takes note with interest of the note by the Executive Secretary on sustainable industrial development (E/ECE/1327) regarding the facilitation of relations of the ECE and the business community and development of industrial cooperation in the region,

5. Welcomes the discussion held during the Round Table Conference on sustainable industrial development and decides to consider its conclusions,

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to study possible mechanisms for enhancing NGO and business community involvement in the ECE activities, with due regard to similar arrangements already in place with the ECOSOC, UNCTAD and other relevant United Nations bodies and to make proposals for its further development, to be presented to the fifty-second session of the Commission.

**C (51) DIVERSIFICATION OF FORMS AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN TRANSITION TO A MARKET ECONOMY AND THEIR INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling the General Assembly resolutions 48/181, 49/106, 50/120 and ECOSOC resolution 1995/51,

Reaffirming its decisions B (48), B (49), B (50), C (50) and other relevant decisions,

Mindful of the valuable role of the ECE in assisting countries in transition in particular through the programme of workshops, seminars, providing expertise and consultative services and other similar activities on transition issues organized under the ECE auspices,

Also mindful of the need to undertake all possible steps to avoid duplication with other international organizations active in this field,

Acknowledging the contribution of the ECE Regional Advisory Services Programme to the acceleration of the process of economic reforms in countries in transition,

Also acknowledging the importance of further diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the note by the Executive Secretary on diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (E/ECE/1328);

2. Supports the efforts of the Executive Secretary to diversify within the ECE mandate the forms and methods of the ECE activities to assist countries in transition and invites him to continue the ongoing work to this end, pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency;

3. Takes note of the work done by the secretariat on preparing the list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatization and transition of different sectors of economy to market conditions, whose services could be provided to interested countries in transition and requests the Executive Secretary to carry on this work with the view to making the list more complete and more practical;

4. Supports the efforts of the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI), the European Training Foundation and 1LO/Turin Centre and other institutions in providing management training for the countries in transition and invites him to continue his consultations with these organizations on the appropriate contribution of ECE to their training programmes;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary to consult the UN Programmes and funds and the international financial institutions on their possible contribution to the ECE activities of special interest to the countries in transition;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to continue consultations on data collection and data sharing on foreign direct investment opportunities in cooperation with the World Bank, EBRD and other relevant institutions as well as with the business community as a means to foster foreign direct investment into countries in transition and to elaborate a Guide to Investment Promotion Practice taking into account the work done by other international organizations in this field;

7. Takes note with satisfaction of the cooperation established between the ECE secretariat and the European Commission aimed at implementation of projects identified by countries in transition in the framework of the EU PHARE and TACIS programmes and invites the Executive Secretary to continue

consultations with the European Commission so as to determine the possibility of further cooperation in providing assistance to economies in transition;

8. Welcomes the report of the Executive Secretary E/ECE/1329, and reiterates the need to focus the ECE Regional Advisory Services Programme (RASP) on complementing the activities of the ECE in favour of the countries in transition and invites the Executive Secretary to consult with member States on allocation of the funds made available for RASP;

9. Reiterates its request to the Executive Secretary to address, in appropriate form, the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a request to allocate adequate resources within the existing United Nations regular budget for the implementation of the RASP;

10. Confirms the importance of continuing the programme of workshops and seminars on the subjects of practical importance to countries in transition in the ECE region, and invites the member States and international organizations to continue and increase their support for the ECE workshops series;

11. Expresses appreciation to the donors of the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) for their financial assistance through the TFACT to the countries in transition to ensure the participation of their representatives in the ECE programme of workshops and seminars and invites Governments of the member countries, relevant international organizations and institutions as well as other potential donors to make contributions to TFACT;

12. Reiterates its recommendation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider the possibility of using ECE as a focal point of facilitating within the framework of the appropriate arrangements to be made within the United Nations Secretariat the promotion and enhancing of mutual cooperation with UN global programmes, organs and specialized agencies and within their respective mandates;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the fifty-second session of the Commission a report on the implementation of this decision.

## D (51) STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND THE ORGANIZATION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 47/10, 48/19, 49/13 and 50/87 concerning cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Mindful of global fiscal realities and their implications for the resources available to the United Nations,

Reaffirming its decision F (50) on strengthening of cooperation between ECE and the OSCE,

Mindful of the Framework for cooperation and coordination between the United Nations Secretariat and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed on 26 May 1993,

Bearing in mind the conclusions of the OSCE Economic Dimension Implementation Review Meeting held in Geneva on 22-23 January 1996 and commending the preparation by the ECE secretariat for this Meeting of a comprehensive background document on implementation of the Document of the Bonn Conference of 1990 on Economic Cooperation in Europe,

Reiterating its intention to play a more effective role within the sphere of its competence in assisting countries in transition,

Aware of the importance of maintaining and improving coordination between ECE and the OSCE Economic Forum and with relevant OSCE bodies,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Europe to implement the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other relevant CSCE documents (E/ECE/1333) and commends the proposals contained therein on cooperation between the secretariat of the ECE and the secretariat of the OSCE to promote the implementation of the pertinent conclusions of the OSCE meetings;

2. Considers that cooperation between ECE and the OSCE could be strengthened, within existing resources, along the following lines:

- continuation of regular consultations between the two organizations at the level of the Executive Secretary of ECE and the Secretary-General of the OSCE on the matters of implementation of economic dimension commitments contained in the OSCE documents and in particular to the preparation and the follow-up of the meetings of the OSCE Economic Forum;

- cooperation in the organization of workshops and seminars identified by the Economic Forum on economic dimension subjects including investment promotion and investment regimes in the countries in transition;

- elaboration by ECE of early warning indicators of the economic situation through provision of timely and topical statistics and economic analysis, while taking into account the work being done by other international organizations in this field, thus enabling OSCE to detect risks of tension which could endanger stability and security in the region,

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps to ensure the ECE contribution to the follow-up of the Fourth Meeting of the Economic Forum;

4. Calls upon its Subsidiary Bodies to contribute in appropriate manner to the practical follow-up of the Fourth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum in line with the role recognized to the UN/ECE by paragraph 15 of the Budapest Summit Declaration;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to consult the OSCE Secretary-General on further strengthening the cooperation between ECE and the OSCE in the implementation of the pertinent provisions of the CSCE/OSCE documents relating to the strengthening of economic cooperation in the region, assistance to the countries in transition as well as to the economic security in the region;

6. Further requests the Executive Secretary to report on the progress of implementation of this decision to the fifty-second session of the Commission.

**E (51) ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming its decision D (50) and its prior decisions adopted on economic cooperation in the Mediterranean,

Noting the growing awareness of the need for joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation and to promote stability and peace in the Mediterranean region in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1992 Helsinki Document and the 1994 Budapest Document, the Stability Pact for the Mediterranean, and the IPU Conference of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean held in Malta in November 1995,

Noting also the agreement reached in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona in November 1995, where the participants identified political, economic and social guidelines for a Euro-Mediterranean partnership,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1333) on Activities of the ECE to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the CSCE and other CSCE/OSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the 1992 Helsinki Document and the 1994 Budapest Document, as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE, and particularly Part II of the report pertaining to economic cooperation in the Mediterranean;

2. Takes note of the decision adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in December 1995 where the non-participating States of the Mediterranean were recognized as Mediterranean partners for cooperation;

3. Takes note with satisfaction of the recognition given by the OSCE at the Budapest Summit of December 1994 to the role played by the ECE and other relevant international organizations and institutions in support of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean as an important factor for stability in the OSCE region;

4. Takes note also of the participation of the ECE in all relevant meetings of the OSCE dealing with economic cooperation including those in the Mediterranean region;

5. Welcomes the activities undertaken by the secretariat addressing Mediterranean questions as elaborated in Commission document E/ECE/1333;

6. Calls upon the Executive Secretary as previously requested to continue undertaking action-oriented analysis of existing cooperation between ECE Mediterranean countries, and to identify effective means of enhancing economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as between Mediterranean and other ECE member countries, in all areas of the ECE programme of work, within existing resources, for consideration by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties of the Commission in their programme of work;

7. Further calls upon member States to assist the Commission in its current activities on the analysis of macroeconomic and sectoral policies with a view to taking into account the Mediterranean dimension of the ECE;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the Executive Secretaries of the other regional commissions concerned, as well as heads of other relevant United Nations bodies in order to secure interaction with Mediterranean partners for cooperation, with a view to increasing interregional cooperation on the subjects within the competence of the ECE and which are of common interest to the Mediterranean countries;

9. Takes note of the report submitted by the ECE at the 1995 ECOSOC Substantive Session (E/1995/46) regarding the project of the Europe-Africa permanent link through the straits of Gibraltar, and also of resolution E/1995/48, which asked the ECE Executive Secretary to present a report on the project to the 1997 ECOSOC Substantive Session;

10. Calls upon Mediterranean countries to work closely with the ECE and OSCE to intensify the dialogue with the Mediterranean partners for cooperation through seminars and to intensify their common links by the implementation of specific projects for the Mediterranean region, and invites the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the informal open-ended contact group, OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, pursuant to the decision on the Mediterranean adopted at the Budapest Summit 1994;

11. Calls upon the ECE to cooperate with the OSCE in the organization of workshops and seminars identified by the OSCE on economic cooperation subjects that are devoted to Mediterranean questions with the Mediterranean partners for cooperation;

12. Welcomes the adoption of the Declaration by the Mediterranean countries and the European Union at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Barcelona of November 1995 and invites the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of EU funding, envisaged in the Economic and Financial Partnership dimension of the Work Plan of the Barcelona Conference, to develop and to assist in the implementation of projects in areas such as trade facilitation, environment, transport, statistics and energy which are supported by the Mediterranean countries;

13. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the fifty-second session on the implementation of this decision.

**F (51) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision G (50) on cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development,

Reaffirming that environmental cooperation is a priority activity of the ECE,

Recognizing the need to ensure that policies in all sectors are consistent with sustainable development,

1. Underlines the importance of cooperation of the ECE with subregional institutions and international organizations having activities in the field of environment;

2. Stresses the need for Principle Subsidiary Bodies to better integrate as appropriate environment and sustainable development considerations into their activities and decision-making;

3. Welcomes the outcome of the Third Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Sofia (Bulgaria) on 23-25 October 1995 and notes with appreciation its acknowledgement of the important role of ECE in overseeing the "Environment for Europe" process in close cooperation with the relevant agencies, and the tasks given to the Committee on Environmental Policy in that regard;

4. Calls upon all its Subsidiary Bodies as appropriate to contribute to the implementation of the Environmental Programme for Europe;

5. Endorses the establishment of the Ad hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials with the aim of streamlining the Environment for Europe process and preparation of the 1998 Ministerial Conference in Denmark and equally endorses the establishment of the Ad hoc Working Group for the preparation of a draft Convention on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in environmental decision making;

6. Expresses its satisfaction with the manner in which the Committee on Environmental Policy conducted its first National Environmental Performance Review and invites the Committee to continue its efforts to extend the system to the non-OECD countries of the ECE region;

7. Takes note of the work under way in the Preparatory Committee for the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment to take place in Vienna, if possible during the second week of November 1997, under the auspices of the ECE;

8 Calls once more upon all ECE member States and the European Community to consider, if they have not already done so, the earliest possible ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, the following ECE conventions:

- Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context,
- Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes,

9. Calls upon all ECE member States and the European Community to consider ratification of or accession to the NOx and VOC protocols and to consider signature, ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, the Protocol on Further Reductions of Sulphur Emissions under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

10. Furthermore calls upon all ECE member States and the European Community to actively support the elaboration of the new NOx Protocol and the Protocols on heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) decided upon by the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

11. Invites the ECE member States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions and other potential donors to consider the financial and technical needs of the countries in transition in implementing the provisions of the above-mentioned Conventions and Protocols;

12. Pending the decisions of its fifty-second session on the outcome of work of the Ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency requests the Executive Secretary to continue to provide the resources already allocated to the ECE's environmental activities according to the priority of those activities as determined by the Committee on Environmental Policy and provide member States with detailed and timely information on the allocation of these resources;

13. Finally requests the Executive Secretary to report to its fifty-second session on the action he will have taken to implement this decision.

**G (51) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decisions O (45), G (49) and H (50),

Reiterating the continued high priority of the work of the Commission on the enhanced harmonization of technical requirements for safe and efficient transportation of persons and goods, the facilitation of cross border transport operations, the continued development of coherent transport networks and the intensified general cooperation in the field of transport,

Conscious of the difficulties of countries in transition in developing market economy mechanisms in the field of transport especially with a view to the establishment of sound legal frameworks in the transport sector and economically sound activities of the private sector in this field,

Underlining the need for ECE to contribute to the implementation of harmonized and coordinated transport policy concepts for the region in close cooperation with the European Union, ECMT, subregional groupings and governmental as well as non-governmental organizations dealing with transport issues so as to avoid duplication of work,

Stressing the continuing importance of ECE in matters of regional transport cooperation, even under circumstances of growing financial constraints and necessary rationalization,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report and the conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Inland Transport Committee;

2. Welcomes the action being taken as follow-up of the second Pan-European Transport Conference and the constructive participation of the secretariat in the preparation of the third conference scheduled for June 1997;

3. Takes note of the interim report of the Preparatory Committee for the Regional Conference on Transport and Environment and encourages the Committee to continue its work on the basis of the Draft Guidelines for a Common Strategy on Transport and the Environment and to propose draft final documents for adoption by the Conference taking into account the options currently under consideration;

4. Decides to hold the Conference in Vienna, if possible during the second week of November 1997;

5. Requests the Preparatory Committee to submit the final report on the results, especially with regard to the organization, draft agenda, basic documentation and final documents to its fifty-second session to enable it to take decisions on substantive and formal questions;

6. Underlines the necessity of an urgent revision of the provisions of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets and urges Contracting Parties to the Convention to agree on immediate amendments to the Convention wherever consensus exists before the completion of other elements of the revision, calls upon all Contracting Parties to the Convention to actively participate in the revision process and endorses the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee with regard to the possibilities to strengthen human resources for the respective work in the secretariat;

7. Takes note of the development of discussions concerning the second stage of the revision of the 1958 Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform conditions of approval and reciprocal recognition of approval for motor vehicle equipment and parts with regard to additional modifications of the Agreement as a global instrument;

8. Welcomes the completion of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and invites member States to consider signature of the Agreement in Geneva between 1 October 1996 and 30 September 1997;

9. Urges member States to determine the legal form of the regulations on combined transport on inland waterways, possibly including coastal shipping and to adopt the legal instrument at the next session of the Committee;

10. Endorses the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee concerning the establishment of the International Working Group for the elaboration of a draft European Agreement for the transport of dangerous goods by inland waterways;

11. Welcomes the results achieved in the implementation of the road (TEM) and rail (TER) infrastructure projects and underlines the importance of their further development by countries participating in TEM and TER in close cooperation with other ECE member States, the European Union and relevant non-governmental institutions;

12. Welcomes the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee aimed at intensifying assistance to countries in transition, while calling on the secretariat to ensure close cooperation with the European Union, international organizations and institutions providing also assistance to these countries in order to achieve better coordination and to avoid duplication of efforts;

13. Reiterates the necessity to fill, within existing or even fewer resources as soon as possible the vacant post in the Transport Division for the work in the section responsible for matters of transport of dangerous goods;

14. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this decision.

**H (51) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY**

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision I (50) and the decision O (45) identifying the priority issues for the ECE,

Noting the significance of energy in growth and economic development and the need to promote sustainable development of the energy sector,

Underlining the importance of energy related issues in regional cooperation in particular as regards the assistance to countries in transition,

Recalling the requests of a number of member countries to consider energy as a priority area of work and to foster the cooperation in energy among the ECE member States,

Conscious that ECE's work programme in the field of energy provides fora where all member States, the private sector and the relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations could interact on a regular basis to discuss energy issues and to promote cooperation in the field of energy,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary (E/ECE/1339) on cooperation in the field of energy as well as the report and the conclusions of the fifth session of the Committee on Energy;

2 Invites the Committee on Energy:

- to mobilize the support of the private sector to assist countries in transition through extra-budgetary activities such as the Gas Centre, Energy Efficiency 2000 Project and the clean coal implementation programme;

- to cooperate and collaborate with other regional institutions, sub-regional groupings and non-governmental organizations active in the sphere of energy within the ECE region with a view to ensuring best use of available resources and complementarities;

- to continue its work on the development of international standards and norms in the energy sector;

- to streamline the work of the Committee on Energy with those of its subsidiary bodies and to focus its programme of work in order to facilitate its implementation;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the implementation of this decision.

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